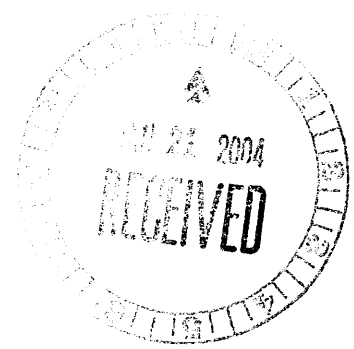


January 16, 2004

El 748



Case Control Unit
STB Finance Docket No. 34424
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: STB Docket No. 34424
Canadian National Railway and Grand Trunk Corporation to acquire control of 3
rail carriers: Duluth Missabe & Iron Range Railway Company, Bessemer and
Lake Erie Railroad Company and The Pittsburgh & Conneaut Dock Company
SHPO Number: 2004-0583

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above project. It has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given the State Historic Preservation Officer by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

The review materials submitted by CN indicate that CN believes that the proposed transaction is exempt from review under the National Historic Preservation Act. We are not aware of any specific exemption.

We would recommend that the STB consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to determine whether the proposed undertaking has the potential to cause effects on historic properties and therefore would be subject to review under the process outlined in 36CFR800. If it does, we would be happy to work with you to complete this process.

Contact us at 651-296-5462 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Gimmestad".

Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs & Compliance Officer

cc: Paul Cunningham, Harkins Cunningham LLP